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enriched with numerous MS. notes, and observations, and what is particularly worthy of being noticed, an analysis of its history."

March 16, (Stated Meeting).

SIR WM. R. HAMILTON, LL.D. President, in the Chair.

On the recommendation of Council, the following gentlemen were elected Honorary Members of the Academy:

Professor Adrian, *Giessen*.
Jean B. Dumas, *Paris*.
A. Quetelet, *Brussels*.
J. O. Halliwell, Esq., *Cambridge*.

The Secretary of Council read the following Report:

In conformity with the precedent lately established, the Council, at the expiration of their year of office, beg to offer the Academy a general account of its history and progress during that interval.

The Council have to report, in the first place, that the publications of the Academy have proceeded with considerable vigour. The first Part of Vol. XIX. of the Transactions has been lately issued, and the second Part, for which many papers are in readiness, is now beginning to be printed. The first Volume also of the Proceedings, containing, along with other ordinary business, an account of the communications made to the Academy during the last four sessions, has just been published. As the quantity remaining on hands of the *fourth* Number of the Proceedings was remarkably small, the Council, on the recommendation of the Committee of Publication, have ordered 250 copies of that Number to be reprinted, by which means a large stock of complete copies of the first Volume has been made up for the supply of future demands, and for sale to Members and others at a fixed price.

The Council are gratified to observe the increasing interest which is every day felt in the publication of the Proceedings. Not being confined to the mere analysis of elaborate memoirs intended for the Transactions, but giving free admission, and occasionally complete insertion, to smaller papers of various kinds, the Proceedings serve as a repository for scattered facts, and important notices, which would otherwise be lost. Speedy publication is an additional inducement to authors to communicate such notices; and by the adoption of woodcuts for antiquarian and scientific objects, of which the mere verbal description would be vague and unsatisfactory, the value of the communications is very much enhanced.

The expenses of printing and engraving continue, as might be expected, to press very heavily on the funds of the Academy. With the view, therefore, of practising every possible economy, the Council have entered into an arrangement with Mr. Petrie, by which that gentleman has bound himself to print, at his own risk, his Essay on the Round Towers of Ireland, as the twentieth Volume of the Transactions, engaging to supply the Academy with 450 copies of the work at a settled price, the sum which they have already expended for engraving to be deducted therefrom. The Academy will thus be furnished with as many copies as they want, and will be saved the additional outlay which would be requisite if they were themselves to defray the charge of the whole edition. After the great and unusual delays which have attended the publication of this Essay, the Council are gratified in being able to state that it has been actually put to press, and that the author confidently expects it will make its appearance soon after the second part of the nineteenth Volume of the Transactions.

Notwithstanding the limited extent of the resources of the Academy, the Council are of opinion that the formation of a National Museum of Antiquities is an object which the Academy should continue steadily to pursue, as far as these resources will reasonably permit; and since many articles of great value to the antiquarian are disposed of from time to time by public and by private sale, and may never again be met with, if such opportunities of procuring them are lost, they have thought it advisable to recommend to the Academy that a sum of money should be en-

trusted to the Committee of Antiquities to enable them to profit by such chances. The Academy have accordingly, by a recent vote, placed at the disposal of the Committee the sum of £200, which will probably serve the purpose for a considerable period. In the meantime, from the liberality of members and other gentlemen, the Museum is receiving constant accessions, which are regularly recorded in the Proceedings, and among which the large donation lately made by Captain Portlock is deserving of especial mention.

In touching on this subject, the Council are reminded of the severe loss which the Academy have sustained by the decease of their late respected Vice-President, the Very Rev. Henry Richard Dawson, Dean of St. Patrick's, a gentleman universally lamented by those who had the pleasure of knowing him in private life, but whom the lovers of Irish antiquities have peculiar reasons to regret; for he was a zealous preserver and collector of the old memorials of his country, and the treasures of this kind which he had accumulated in a period of many years, would have been bequeathed to the Museum now begun within these walls, had not his well-known intentions been frustrated by the suddenness of the stroke which removed him from amongst us. The Dean having died intestate, his collections will of course be sold; but as they will fetch a price far above what the Academy could afford, a subscription, which it is to be hoped may be successful, has been set on foot, under the management of the Committee of Antiquities, for the purpose of depositing these valuable remains in the place for which they were intended by their generous collector.

The past year has also deprived us of some other distinguished Members, among whom was Thomas Drummond, Esq., Captain in the Corps of Royal Engineers, and Under-Secretary of State for Ireland. In his professional character, Mr. Drummond was remarkable for combined energy and talent, and for the singular power which he possessed of making the truths of science available for important purposes in practice. Though this was not the country of his birth, yet it was here that he spent the most active period of his life. Engaged in the Ordnance Survey, at its commencement in this kingdom, he enriched the practice of geodetical operations with some of its most useful instruments, which have

now become indispensable in the observation of distant stations ; and it deserves to be remembered, that it was from the summit of Slieve Snaght, in Donegal, to a party stationed on the hill of Divis, near Belfast, that he first exhibited, across the haze of Lough Neagh, the celebrated Light which bears his name, and which will serve, better than any monument, to perpetuate his memory.

In the person of Nicholas Aylward Vigors, Esq., late Member of Parliament for the county of Carlow, the Academy and the scientific world have lost one of the best zoologists of his day. His papers, in the department of ornithology more especially, are highly esteemed by naturalists ; and the zeal which he felt for the advancement of his favourite science was manifested in the active part which he took, along with some other eminent men, in the foundation of the Zoological Society of London.

But a very few days have elapsed since the hand of death has blotted from our roll the honoured name of Laurence Earl of Rosse, one of the original Members of this Academy, and one of the ablest vindicators of the ancient literature of Ireland. Of the illustrious noblemen and gentlemen who founded our Society, who watched over its infancy, and powerfully promoted its early progress, his Lordship was the last survivor. Hitherto, for more than half a century of our corporate existence, our meetings have been cheered by the presence of some—though a constantly decreasing number—of those who witnessed their beginning, and who felt, as it were, a paternal interest in our welfare. But now they have all disappeared from amongst us. Let us endeavour to show that we are worthy to succeed them ; for so we shall best do honour to their memory.

The other Members whom the Academy has lost by death within the year are :

- The Earl of Ranfurly.
- Right Honourable Lord Garvagh.
- Rev. Sir Francis Lynch Blosse, Bart.
- Arthur Hamilton, Esq., L.L.D.
- Rev. Hosea Guinness.
- John Crampton, Esq., M.D.

And the new Members added to the body since the 16th of March, 1840, are:

J. Davidson, Esq.	Rev. Henry Barry Knox.
Abraham Abell, Esq.	Rev. J. West.
J. H. Blake, Esq., Q. C.	Thomas Fortescue, Esq., M.P.
G. Wilkinson, Esq.	Chichester Bolton, Esq.
George Willoughby Hemans, Esq.	Henry Coulson Beauchamp, M.D.

In accordance with the suggestion of the Council of last year, the Council have ordered the compositions received in lieu of annual subscriptions to be henceforth invested in the Government Funds.

The following have been added to the list of Societies with whom the Academy interchange Transactions:

- The Bavarian Academy of Sciences.
 - The Institute of Sciences of Milan.
 - The Rotterdam Society of Sciences.
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In connexion with the subject of Mr. Webber's remarks at the last meeting, Sir W. Betham communicated the following document, giving an account of an order made by King James I. for the destruction of wolves in Ireland.

Patent Roll, 12 Jac. I. d. R. 17. "The King being given to understand the great loss and hindrance which arose in Ireland by the multitude of wolves, in all parts of the kingdom, did by letters from Newmarket, 26th November, 1614, direct a grant to be made by patent to Henrie Tuttessham, who by petition had made offer to repair into Ireland, and there use his best skill and endeavour to destroy the said wolves, providing at his own charge men, dogs, traps, and engines, and requiring no other allowance, save only four nobles sterling, for the head of every wolf, young or old, out of every county, and to be authorized to keep four men and twelve couple of hounds in every county, for seven years next after the date of these letters." 12 Jac. s. L. R. 27.

The Rev. C. Otway read a letter from Mr. Blacker, on the origin of the emblem of the shamrock.